



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

October 2003

About this Report

Purpose

The purpose of the Wayne Quarterly is to provide a status report and short summary of environmental analysis on the Wayne National Forest. Issued quarterly, this is intended to complement other public involvement initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers.

Legal notices will continue to be published in local newspapers: the Athens Messenger for Forest-wide decisions and those affecting the Athens Ranger District, and the Ironton Tribune for those affecting the Ironton District.

For further information or to provide comments regarding any of the items described in this report or for copies of available documents, please contact the responsible Ranger District. We encourage you to pass on any information having a bearing on the decisions being considered. Addresses and telephone numbers are on the back page or contact us through email at: r9_wayne_website@fs.fed.us.

Organization

Projects are listed alphabetically in three categories. Each includes a brief description of the project and approximate time frames.

The three types of listings in the Wayne Quarterly are:

Proposed Projects:

Projects are listed for which public input is being or is about to be sought. These include those currently under study or analysis. Forest activities or events may also be included.

Completed Decision Documents:

These projects have culminated in the preparation of completed environmental assessments and decision documents. Also included, are projects "categorically excluded" from documentation in an EA (Environmental Assessment) or EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) but documented in a decision memo.

Projects in Progress:

Projects listed here are actively underway. They are included in order to keep you apprised of ongoing forest activities.

Editor's Note:

Contact Gary Miller at 740-753-0101 with suggestions for the Quarterly, to obtain more copies, or change the mailing list.

Large Print copies available on request.

Forest-wide Programs/Projects

Anticipated "Walk-in" Business.

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate analysis be completed with a short turn-around. This may mean that decisions are made without prior notice in the Quarterly, however, they will continue to be announced by legal notices in newspapers as appropriate. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads, oil and gas exploration, utility right-of-way, and recreation special events. Fees are collected annually for special use permits, although in some cases (such as rural electric companies) may be waived. Analysis and documentation is done on each request.

Land Acquisition.

As of October 31, 2003, the Wayne National Forest has 236,175 acres of public land. During the last quarter, the Marietta Unit added 58 acres and the Athens Unit added 83 acres. Through an exchange on the Athens Unit we lost 11 acres. On the Ironton Unit, 80 acres of minerals were donated under existing National Forest System land surface ownership.

The highest priority for future acquisition is placed on tracts within Management Areas 2.1, 6.1, 6.2, and 9.2. Additional priorities are placed on tracts with unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species or geological features, tracts that provide needed recreation opportunities, tracts that contain cultural resources, and tracts that consolidate the land base or provide access to other National Forest lands. Fair market value is paid to willing sellers. Contact Terry Krasko, Athens office, for more information.

Forest Plan Revision.

Over 100 persons attended public workshops to help develop forest plan alternatives in late October and early November. Persons representing diverse viewpoints attended each of the three workshops. Participants worked in small groups to develop one or more themes for potential alternatives. The results of these small groups will be posted to the Wayne's web site soon. In addition, because not everyone has access to the Internet, a newsletter will be released in December summarizing the input received.

The Wayne's Forest Plan Revision interdisciplinary team is currently using the public input from the workshops, public input received by other means, and internal reviews to achieve a reasonable range of alternatives. Developing the alternatives and analyzing the effects will take most of the interdisciplinary team's time during the next 6 to 8 months. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement and a Proposed Revised Forest Plan are scheduled to be published in October of 2004.

You can find information on the Forest Plan Revision on a special section of our web-page at www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne. We will continue to inform you of special events by mail. If you wish to receive information about the plan revision by e-mail rather than printed mail, please send an e-mail to croberts@fs.fed.us or to: Forest Plan Revision Team - Wayne National Forest, 13700 U.S. Route 33, Nelsonville, OH 45764.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
Forest Plan Revision					
1. Forest Plan Revision	Entire Forest	January, 2002	September 2005	Bob Gianniny, Supervisor's Office	This is the scheduled revision of the 1988 Forest Plan. Significant issues, concerns and opportunities have been finalized. Public workshops on developing alternatives were held in late October and early November. Alternatives are being developed based on public input and resource analyses. The planning team is now incorporating these ideas into alternatives that will be analyzed in detail.
2. Forest Plan Amendment for Threatened and Endangered Species	Forest-wide	December 2001	May 22, 2003	Ted King, Nelsonville	The decision was made to approve Amendment 13 to the existing Forest Plan. This amendment was based on the Biological Opinion for continued implementation of the Wayne Forest Plan received in late September 2001. This decision is under appeal.

Proposed Projects

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
Watershed Restoration Projects					
3. Carbon Hill Portal Closure	Hocking County	May 2003	Spring 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We are proposing to close the opening to an abandoned underground mine that is a public safety hazard. Analysis continues.
4. Lost Run Subsidence	Hocking County	August 2003	January 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We are exploring opportunities to close a number of subsidences that are capturing surface water into underground mines. This water significantly contributes to the acid mine drainage in the area.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
5. Monkey Hollow Subsidence	Hocking County	April 2003	Spring 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We want to close several subsidence that are capturing surface water into underground mines. The water significantly contributes to the area's acid mine drainage in the area. Analysis continues.
6. New Straitsville Subsidence	Hocking County	August 2003	February 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We are exploring opportunities to close a number of subsidence that are capturing surface water into underground mines. This water significantly contributes to the acid mine drainage in the area.
General Projects					
7. Allowing Mountain Bike Use	Lawrence and Gallia Counties	February 19, 2002	Spring 2004	John Brown, Ironton	This proposal is to allow mountain bike use (non-motorized) on the Morgan Sisters/Symmes Creek Trail System. This trail system consists of approximately 14 miles of trail. Hikers have not used these trails in significant numbers in the past several years. The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
8. Commercial thinning of pine	Athens District	April 1, 2003	Late spring 2004	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	It has been proposed to thin a small number of acres annually on the Athens District. Overstocked stands are vulnerable to insect and disease problems. Internal scoping will occur during winter/spring 2004.
9. Hazardous Fuel Reduction	Lawrence, Gallia, and Scioto Counties	August 4, 2003	January 2004	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	One of the results from the February, 2003 Ice Storm that hit the Ironton District, is that the amount of potential fire fuels in the event of a wildfire increased significantly. Many trees and branches fell from the weight of the accumulated ice, and these additions to the forest floor changes the predicted fire behavior if a wildfire starts. As a result fires could be more difficult to control and get much larger. Final specialist reports are being prepared and a decision is expected in January. This project is in addition to the Ironton Roadside Fuel Reduction project approved in June 2003.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
10. Indian Creek Road and Bridge	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	November 2001	Spring 2004	John Brown, Ironton	The bridge crossing Indian Creek on the former Township Road 129 is in poor condition and has been temporarily closed. The road needs to be either closed at that point or the bridge replaced. The proposed action is to close the bridge and construct a parking area. The former Township Roads 95 and 129 beyond this spot would be closed to vehicles, but foot travel allowed. The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
11. Kenton Lake Improvements	Ironton District	December 2003	Spring 2004	John Brown, Ironton	This proposal is to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier and trail. The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
12. Prescribed Burning Program	Athens District	September 2001	January 2003	Kevan Moore, Nelsonville	An environmental assessment is complete and the decision is pending. The EA considered the impacts of prescribed burning four areas, totaling 2, 035 acres, to accomplish resource and fuels management objectives. The areas included: Utah Ridge (675 acres), Big Bailey (460 acres), Middle Bailey (325 acres), and Kern Prairie/Peabody Tract (575 acres).
13. Restoration of Mixed-Oak Forest Ecosystems with Prescribed Fire Project	Lawrence County	May 16, 2003	December 2003	Phil Perry, Nelsonville	A proposal is under consideration in support of the Northeastern Research Station in Delaware, Ohio. This project involves conducting prescribed burning as part of a research project to determine the appropriate fire regime for mixed oak forests. A second goal is to establish a monitoring program for fire effects and ecosystem sustainability. The burning would take place on two areas (Bluegrass and Youngs Branch) totaling 320 acres, over the next 10 years. This would be a continuation of the research with prescribed fire that was conducted on these areas from 1996-1999.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
14. Re-introduction of threatened and endangered species	Forest-wide	September 29, 2003	Spring 2003	Lynda Andrews, Nelsonville	This proposal is to reintroduce the American burying beetle. Staff is reviewing conservation strategies for these species. Any formalized proposal will be done in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ohio Division of Wildlife.
Special Use Permits					
15. Athens District Permit Renewals – 2003	Athens District	May 16, 2003	December 2003	Max Norris, Athens Unit; Tom Thompson, Marietta Unit	The Athens District proposes to reissue 48 special use permits to continue existing uses. The permitted uses have been in place for many years and there will be no new disturbance. The uses to be renewed include roads, oil and gas pipelines, cultivation, powerlines, and a park/playground.
16. Hay Mowing Permits	Elizabeth Twp, Lawrence Co.	Fall 2003	Winter 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Collective group of small hayfields adjacent to Etna-Waterloo Road and SR 93 (total about 4 acres). Proponent has mowed them for several years while owned by Mead/Westvaco (newly acquired tract).
17. Hay Mowing Permits	Perry Twp, Gallia Co.	Fall 2003	Winter 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed hay permit for a field that was under a permit for many years but dropped in 2002. This ridgetop field, about 5 acres, is accessed from Woodside Road in the Symmes Creek area.
18. Mowing Permit Request	Green Twp, Hocking County	Fall 2003	December 2003	Max Norris, Nelsonville	An application has been filed by Brian and Gina Archer to mow approximately 0.19 acres of Wayne NF land adjacent their private property. This same area had been under permit to a previous landowner.
19. Proposed Ridgetop hayfield	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	Fall 2003	Winter 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed mowing of a 5-acre ridgetop field for hay. The area is currently mowed as a wildlife opening.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
20. Proposed Access road	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	Fall 2003	Winter 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Road would access a gas well on private property. This is the only logical access (approximately 200 feet in length) on existing woods road.
21. Pasture Access Road	Elizabeth Twp, Lawrence Co.	November 2003	February 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	An access road to a pasture has been requested using an existing road which currently accesses a gas well. The road can also be used to plug another well in the pasture accessed if the permit is granted.
22. Powerline Pole relocation	Decatur Twp, Lawrence Co.	November 2003	February 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Buckeye Rural Electric Coop has requested to move a pole from an eroding creek bank to a more suitable location on the other side of the road.
23. Proposed electric service to private residence	Mason Twp, Lawrence Co.	Fall 2003	Winter 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed electric service connection to a new private residence in the Timbre Ridge Lake area. The service would come from a pole on NF traversing a field to County Road 37 and the property line. About 100 feet in length.
24. Proposed gas line	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	Fall 2003	Winter 2003	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed gas line across a 900 foot section of NF to connect two gas wells on private property.
25. Proposed oil and gas well	Newport Twp., Washington Co.	April 2003	June 2004	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	Carlton Oil Corp. has proposed to develop the Hackathorn #1 well on a tract acquired in a lease sale in 1995. The environmental analysis process is required before a well can be drilled at this site. Carlton Oil Corp. A new proposal for access was recently made so analysis is continuing.
26. Proposed Road	T13N, R15W, Ward Twp, Hocking Co.	October 8, 2002	December 2003	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	A special use application has been submitted by the State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services MARCS Program to construct approximately 550 feet of access road on Forest Service land to access a proposed MARCS radio tower site to be located on State land at the Hocking Correctional Facility.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
27. Proposed Road	Ludlow Twp, Washington Co.	November 2003	January 2004	Tom Thompson, Marietta	An application has been filed by Tony Bowersock for a road permit on federal land to access adjacent private land. The road will be approximately 300 feet long and located partially on an old abandoned existing road. Some tree removal will be required.
28. Subsurface Investigation – proposed amended permit	Green, Starr, and Ward Twp, Hocking Co.; & York Twp, Athens Co.	September 2003	December 2003	Max Norris, Nelsonville	An application has been filed by Ohio Department of Transportation to amend their existing permit and conduct additional subsurface investigations along the proposed route corridors being considered for the US Route 33 Nelsonville by-pass project. Subsurface investigation will involve drilling approximately 107 holes on Segment A, 18 holes on Segment B, and 85 holes on Segment C on Wayne National Forest land.

Completed Decision Documents

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
29. Big Bailey Wetland Restoration	Athens Co.	September 10, 2003	October 17, 2003	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	This proposal will restore the 4-acre Big Bailey Wetland. The existing debris dam adjacent to the county road will be replaced with good fill material, a water control device, and a rock surface, which will serve as the emergency spillway.
30. ODNR – Water Pipelines	Trimble Twp, Athens County	March 2003	July 29, 2003	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	A special use permit was approved for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to construct approximately 5,300 feet of buried 8-inch waterline on federal land along State Route 13 and County Road 107 near Burr Oak Lake. Once the construction is complete, approximately 2,800 feet of old existing 6" waterline will be removed from federal land. The waterlines will provide upgraded services to Burr oak State Park and surrounding area.

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
31. Powerline Permit	York Twp., Athens County	June-July, 2003	October 31, 2003	Max Norris, Nelsonville	An amendment to a permit to Columbus Southern Power allowed for construction of approximately one mile of powerline on Wayne NF land along S.R. 278 with much of the location on the highway right of way. After completion, approximately 2 miles of cross country powerline on federal land will be removed.
32. Pine Creek Road Repair	Lawrence County	September 13, 2002	September 24, 2003	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	A Decision Memo has been signed to repair the existing Pine Creek Road (FR 132) without making any significant route changes. The project had been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
33. Private Road Permit	Monroe Twp, Perry County	April 25, 2003	July 3, 2003	Max Norris, Nelsonville	A private road special use permit was issued to Buckingham Coal Company to access drill sites on outstanding coal lease rights on the Forest. Two access roads were involved, one is 400 feet long, the other is 2,400 feet. The majority of both roads were to be located on abandoned existing roads. The roads will be reclaimed once drilling is completed.

Projects in Progress – Decision Documents Complete

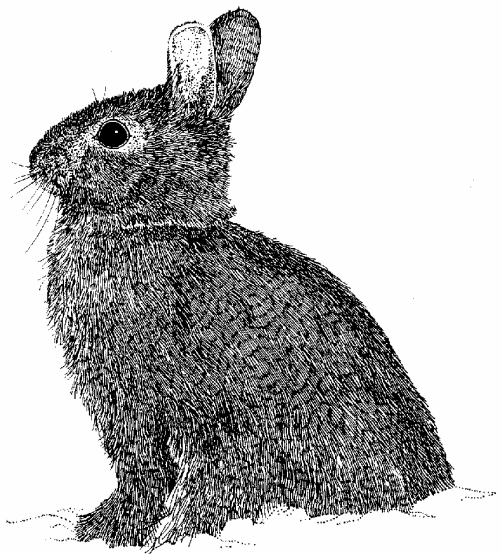
Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
34. Bluegrass Ridge and Markin Fork Restoration Project	Ironton Ranger District	July 26, 2002	December 20, 2002	Kathy Flegel, Ironton	Logging is again underway on the Bluegrass and the Markin Fork Timber Sales. Work should continue through the winter months as weather conditions allow.
35. Vesuvius Dam repair.	Lawrence Co.	April 16, 1997	May 1998	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	Construction of the boardwalk is nearing completion. Due to the ongoing construction, the valve has not yet been closed. The work is expected to be done by the first half of December, including the construction of fish habitat in the lake bed. After the valve is closed the lake should begin to refill and DNR will restock the fish in the spring.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Wayne National Forest
13700 US Highway 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764**

*Presorted Standard
US Postage PAID
Nelsonville, Ohio
Permit G-40*



Wayne National Forest Offices

**Forest Supervisor's Office
and Athens Ranger District**
13700 US Highway 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764
(740) 753-0101
FAX: 740-753-0119

website: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne
[Federal Deaf Service Relay:
1-800-877-8339]



Printed on recycled paper

Ironton Ranger District
6518 State Route 93
Pedro, OH 45659
(740) 534-6500
FAX: 740-534-6565

Marietta Unit – Athens District
27750 State Route 7
Marietta, OH 45750
(740) 373-9055
FAX: 740-373-8079

*USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

